

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00789 030558Z

12

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5279

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, KS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, III

REF: STATE 004700

1. PROGRAMMING FOR MR. ROCKEFELLER'S JAN 24-30 VISIT TO SEOUL WAS ARRANGED PRIMARILY BY SEOUL OFFICE OF POPULATION COUNCIL AND PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY PARK CHANG WIN, WHO OVERSEES SAEMAUL MOVEMENT FOR BLUE HOUSE AND IS FORMER ROCKEFELLER GRANTEE. ROCKEFELLER ASSISTANT JOHN HARR DESCRIBED VISIT AS PART VACATION AND PART EFFORT TO BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN KOREA. SCHEDULE WAS LOW-KEY AND RELAXED, AND INVOLVED MEETINGS PRIMARILY WITH FORMER ROCKEFELLER GRANTEES, WITH CONCENTRATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (ROCKEFELLER WAS MOST IMPRESSED WITH KOREA DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE), POPULATION PROBLEMS, STATUS OF WOMEN, AND KOREAN ARTS.

2. AT VISITOR'S SUGGESTION, ROCKEFELLER AND HARR HAD LENGTHY LUNCHEON BRIEFING WITH CHARGE DURING WHICH ROCKEFELLER EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN PROSPECTS FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL STABILITY AND SECURITY SITUATION. HE ALSO REQUESTED DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND UNDERLYING FACTORS IN ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS. IN GENERAL, ROCKEFELLER EXHIBITED CONSIDERABLE UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY FOR ROK SECURITY

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AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS.

3. ROCKEFELLER OBVIOUSLY ENJOYED BRIEF TOUR OF
AMBASSADOR'S NEW RESIDENCE NOW NEARING COMPLETION AND
EXPRESSED VIEW THAT DEPARTMENT HAD DONE WELL IN
ADAPTING TRADITIONAL KOREAN CONSTRUCTION TO RESIDENCE
REQUIREMENTS.

SNEIDER

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